Lignite in China is very low. However, Chinese side agreed for exchange of information on the said issues where ever technology is available in China.

General

For coal mine safety supervision and personnel training, Chinese side expressed their desire for co-operation in the area with a view to improve safety performance in their mines.

Accident at Jayant project of NCL

† 1497. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that the P and H shovel machine worth Rs.8 crore and the dumper No. 1525 worth Rs.4 crore perished completely as a result of accidents occurred because of negligence of officials in August 2001 in the Jayant project of the Northern Coal Field Ltd.;

(b)if so, the details thereof and the working hour of the each of the said machines;

(c)the outcome of the committee which went into the said accident;

(d)the root cause of the accident;

(e)the action taken against the Chief General Manager, The General Manager and the Dy. Chief General Manager; and

(f) whether Government propose to have the C.B.I, enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that the P and H shovel of Jayant project was completely damaged due to slide of 06.' On 25th August, 2001, an incident of sudden slide of OB occurred when the P and H shovel (No. 8) was working near a hillock which had hidden crack (which could not be noticed during regular mine inspection). The shovel was partially damaged and was taken out for repair/recommissioning on the 3rd day of the incident.The present cost of this model shovel is around Rs.16 crores.

The repair work on the shovel is in progress. The repair work has been awarded on M/s. Voltas Limited the Indian representative of OEM at

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a cost of Rs. 20.8 Lakhs, for repair and fitment of operator Cabin, Machine House, Planum Chamber Assembly, Right and Counter Weight Box, Hatch Cover, Centre Box etc. The spares required for recommissioning of the shovel has been ordered on OEM for Rs. 26810664.00 (inclusive of duties).

The dumper No. 1525 did not meet with any accident in August, 2001 till date.

The progressive working hours of P and H shovel (No. 8) having CIL plant No.: EXC-2092 is 11999 hours as on 25-8-2001.

The progressive working hours of dumptrs. SI. No.1525 as on 25-8-2001 was 18012 hours and as on 25-6-2002 it is 19457 hours and as on date (23-7-2002) also it is in working order.

(c) and (d) The cause of the accident concluded by the Committee is as follows:

"Occurrence of the incident is mainly attributed to the presence of hidden slip, which could not be noticed during regular mine inspection. Slicken side was cleanly visible after the slide. Due to this slip, slide has taken place without any pre-waming"

As per the Committee report, the disciplinary proceeding is in progress.

(e) The Chief General Manager and Additional General Manager (Mines) are found not responsible as per the committee report. There is no executive with the designation of Deputy Chief General Manager in Jayant project.

(f) It is not required, in view of the reply given to part (a) to (e) above.

State Ministers' meeting to discuss report of Mineral Advisory Council

1498. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the State Ministers of Mining and Geology was held in the first week of May, 2002 to discuss the Report of the Mineral Advisory Council;

(b) if so, the details of the meeting; and